

# Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

MARCH 6, 2019 CALLED TO ORDER: 1:34 PM ADJOURNED: 3:35 PM

QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 16 MEMBERS



## Approval of November 7, 2018 and January 2, 2019 Meeting Summaries

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Andrew Degner made a motion to approve the November 7, 2018 and January 2, 2019 meeting summaries as presented. Jeff Fuchs seconded the motion. The Consortium Technical Committee unanimously approved the November 7, 2018 and January 2, 2019 meeting summaries as presented. (16:0:0)

## Director Report

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**Welcome New Members** – Rebecca Geisen welcomed Greg Robertson from the City of Forest Grove and Wyatt Pardo from South Fork Water Board to the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC).

Rebecca mentioned that she will attend the March 18, 2019 Lake Grove Water District Council meeting to give a presentation on the Consortium. Lake Grove has expressed interest in becoming a member.

**Table Top Training Exercise** – Rebecca reminded CTC members that *Bloom Doom 2019*, a large scale, regional table top exercise will take place Tuesday, April 16. The exercise will engage water providers, state and county health officials, and emergency management staff in testing cyanotoxin response and operation plans; practicing regional communication strategies around curtailment; and identifying how water providers, and state and county staff can support each other.

Rebecca noted that a pre-training exercise was held on February 19 that focused on communication and coordination. Lacey Goeres-Priest from the City of Salem and Libby Barg-Bakke from Barney and Worth presented on lessons learned from Salem’s cyanotoxin event.

**Interconnections Geodatabase** – Rebecca reported that a subcommittee of GIS staff met to discuss plan for moving forward with using member staff to update the Interconnections Study geodatabase. Staff is considering if all data fields are necessary. A survey is in development that will go out to all Consortium members to ascertain how the geodatabase is being used and what level of detail and data is needed.

**Regional Emergency Response Equipment Drill** – Rebecca mentioned that a drill is planned for exercising all of the regional emergency response equipment; e.g., mobile treatment systems, emergency water distribution systems, etc. The drill will take place in late summer/early fall 2019.

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**Portland State University (PSU) Population and Household Estimates** – Rebecca advised that PSU has begun work on population forecast estimates. Rebecca noted that she has informed PSU of those members that requested additional data.

**Drinking Water Advisory (DWA) Tool** – The DWA tool is getting a facelift. Upgrades include the ability to post multiple advisories at one time.

**February Board Meeting Follow-Up** – Rebecca mentioned that the Executive Committee is discussing strategies for re-engaging Metro back into the Consortium fold.

**Northwest Region City Managers Conference** – Jeff Fuchs, City of Tualatin and Rebecca have been invited to speak at the conference about the Consortium. The conference is Thursday, May 2 in Hood River OR.

**Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO)** – Rebecca mentioned that RDPO is holding a one-day workshop to explore what governance would look like after a major disaster. In addition, the RDPO is holding a two-day workshop next week to discuss urban area disaster recovery and building resilient infrastructure. Rebecca is unable to attend the governance workshop but will participate in the workshop next week.

Rebecca advised that the Portland Metro region received its ranking with regard to Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding. The region now ranks 32<sup>nd</sup>. Funding has not yet been announced.

## **Proposed Conservation Message Change for Providers Using the Clackamas River**

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Representatives from the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP), Sarah Jo Chaplen, Kari Duncan, and Todd Heidgerken provided an overview of a proposed summer conservation messaging campaign in development for Clackamas River customers to help address sensitive fish runs on the river in September and the need for additional water for fish. The purpose of the campaign *September 1 and Done* is to change customer behaviors toward outdoor watering with a goal of reducing outdoor water use in August and to stop irrigation by September 1. The campaign would kick-off in May or June and could include monthly articles for newsletters and websites; brochures and flyers; conservation pledges and yard signs; and PSAs.

Todd commented that the CRWP members wanted to give other Consortium members an advance heads up that development of the campaign was underway.

Sarah Jo commented that they were open to feedback and comments on the campaign.

Consortium members appreciated the opportunity to provide comment and the Clackamas providers willingness to coordinate with other providers by sharing their messaging plan in this forum.

It was noted that because not all water providers have the same constraints it would be important to keep the messaging local, provider specific, and focused on the source.

It was mentioned that more could be done by all water providers to educate their customers on where their water comes from. Promoting the address look up tool, information on regional water supply,

updating and utilizing summer supply talking points, and promoting the weekly watering number tool were noted.

Rebecca will look into if water source can be added to the look up tool widget as another way to educate customers on where their water comes from.

Tacy Steele advised that the Joint Water Commission had a similar local conservation messaging situation in 2001 and would be happy to share their experience and lessons learned.

Sarah Jo noted that as the CRWP continue to develop the messaging campaign they would share it with the CTC.

## June Consortium Board Meeting Agenda Topic Ideas

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Rebecca led the discussion on potential agenda topics for the June Consortium Board meeting. In addition to the regular business agenda items, suggestions for topics included a re-cap of the 2019 Bloom Doom exercise focused on the role elected officials can play during emergencies; a presentation by Dave Thompson, who lead planning for the solar eclipse, on multi-agency coordination: pre-planning and communications during large-scale events; a legislative update; a summer weather outlook presentation from NOAA; and a summer supply discussion.

CTC members directed Consortium staff to bring the suggested list to the Executive Committee for their consideration and recommendation.

## Program Updates

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**Media Training** – Dave Thompson, has 20 years experience as a TV News reporter/producer/anchor and then 20 more as a public relations executive and spokesperson for a variety of companies and industries, including the Public Information Officer and supervisor for the Oregon Department of Transportation. Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator has commissioned Dave to conduct a media spokesperson training for Consortium member’s public information and communications representatives that will focus on preparing for and delivering interviews with the media. The training is in development and the date is still to be determined.

**Media Campaign** – Bonny gave an overview of the 2019 radio and emergency preparedness media outreach plan.

The Consortium will partner with Alpha Media for the 2019 outdoor water conservation radio campaign. This year’s campaign will feature new ads and a radio jingle. In addition, new ads will be featured on Pandora radio and new Spanish radio ads will be played on Bustos media (KZZR).

The Consortium will again partner with TriMet on an emergency preparedness bus campaign. The one-month campaign will take place in September to coincide with Emergency Preparedness month and will feature a new ad design. KPTV, KUNP (Univision) and Garden Time will all feature emergency preparedness advertising.

**Member Conservation Messaging Survey** – Bonny reviewed highlights of the conservation messaging survey that was sent to all Consortium members in January. 16 of the 22 Consortium members responded to the survey.

Results included:

Languages other than English:

1. Spanish
2. Russian

Messaging Priorities:

1. Actions that people can take to use water wisely (mirrors prog. Eval)
2. Replacing older indoor fixtures, the importance of conservation to the region's water supply
3. Leaks

Radio ads topics:

1. Weekly Watering Number (#2 for Spanish)
2. Environmental benefits to using water wisely (#3 for Spanish)
3. Tips for using water wisely (#1 for Spanish)

## **Water Supply Expansion on the Westside**

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**Willamette Water Supply System** – Mark Knudson from Tualatin Valley Water District gave an update on the Willamette Water Supply program including key features, partnerships, local benefits and WIFIA funding.

The Tualatin Valley Water District and the City of Hillsboro are partnering on the Willamette Water Supply System Program to develop the mid-Willamette River at Wilsonville as an additional water supply source. This new system, when operational in 2026, will provide a reliable water supply for the region by helping water system operators balance supply during times of drought or other supply interruptions, as well as recover more quickly after a large natural disaster. The Program includes a new water intake, water filtration plant, transmission pipeline and supply tanks, and is designed to deliver up to 100 MGD per day.

Mark summarized that 14 projects are under design in 2019. 132 local business have been hired to work on the Program, to date \$97 million has been spent – 96% of which went to local businesses, and 27,500 of 66-inch diameter pipe has been installed.

Mark advised that the establishment of strong partnerships has been key to the Program success thus far. It began with the Willamette Water Supply Program (WWSP) project agreement between TVWD and Hillsboro. From there another partnership was born called the Willamette Intake Facilities (WIF) Commission and includes TVWD, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Sherwood, Tigard and Wilsonville. These six providers are owners/partners in the intake facility. Mark said a separate commission is now in development for the Willamette Water Supply System. This commission includes TVWD, Hillsboro and Beaverton. An IGA is being developed that will supersede the WWSP project agreement.

Mark concluded that in 2018 TVWD and Hillsboro applied and was approved for a WIFIA loan in the amount of \$617 million. The terms of loan will save rate payers approximately \$330 million over the repayment cycle of the loan.

**Joint Water Commission Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Capacity Improvements** – Kevin Hanway gave an overview of the expansion and capacity improvements for the Joint Water Commission’s (JWC) water treatment plant. In response to the need to provide additional water for growing communities in western Washington County, the JWC –owned in partnership by the Cities of Hillsboro, Beaverton, Forest Grove and the Tualatin Valley Water District – are working to complete a multi-year water treatment expansion, improvements project, and facility plan for the JWC Water Treatment Plant.

The project, a result of nearly four years of water supply planning, addresses long-term water capacity and strengthens seismic resiliency while bringing the capacity of the plant from 75- to 85-million gallons (of water) per day (mgd) by 2019. Kevin outlined the various additions/enhancements that are being completed to increase the capacity and improve seismic resiliency all while the plant remains operational.

In addition to new and enhanced water treatment capabilities increasing the plant’s treatment capacity and reliability, the project also involves strengthening water infrastructure and planning for a future plant capacity of 105-mgd. A facility plan has been developed to lay the groundwork for the immediate plant expansion as well as phased seismic improvements and expansions until ultimate plant build out.

## Legislative Update

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Rebecca mentioned that a recent legislative concept, LC 3952 was introduced by Representative Helm that has a broad relating clause to water quality and public health. It directs DEQ to develop response strategies to harmful algal blooms and produce and maintain data. This is thought to be a placeholder bill to address DEQ funding for testing and other issues. Rebecca noted that she is unsure what the concept will turn into, but she will continue to follow it and report back on any developments.

## Consortium Membership and Sharing Resources Strategies

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This full agenda item was held over to the April Consortium Technical Committee meeting due to time constraints.

CTC members approved the \$1 per retail account recommendation for non-regional members.

## Meeting Attendees:

David Winship – City of Beaverton	Todd Heidgerken – Clackamas River Water (phone)	Gregory Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Andrew Degner – City of Gresham	Kevin Hanway and Tacy Steele – City of Hillsboro	Kari Duncan – City of Lake Oswego
Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services	Edward Campbell – City of Portland	Brian Stahl – Rockwood Water PUD (phone)
Wyatt Parno – South Fork Water Board	Elizabeth Edgar – Sunrise Water Authority (phone)	John Goodrich – City of Tigard
David Schaffer – City of Troutdale (phone)	Jeff Fuchs – City of Tualatin	Carrie Pak and Mark Knudson – Tualatin Valley Water District
Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District (phone)	Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman and Patty Burk – RWPC Staff	

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 @ City of Tualatin**